

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, and stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,615,280 to Izawa ("Izawa") and U.S. Patent No. 6,363,164 to Jones ("Jones"). Claims 2, 4, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Izawa, Jones and U.S. Patent No. 5,680,472 to Conant ("Conant"). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Izawa, Jones, Conant and U.S. Patent No. 5,091,968 to Higgins ("Higgins"). Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Izawa, Jones and Higgins.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended simply to further clarify the present invention without adding any new matter. One of the aspects of the present invention as featured in amended claims 1 and 6 "recognizes" the denomination of the currency note. Subsequently, the present invention "extracts" an image of serial number region of the currency note from the entire image of the currency note for which the denomination is already recognized.

It is known in the art that the precise region where the serial number is imprinted in a currency note varies depending on the denomination of the currency note. For example, the

precise region of the serial number is different from each other between \$1 bill and \$10 bill. The precise region of the serial number may also varies between an old currency note and a recently printed currency note. With the features of the present invention discussed above, the denomination of the currency note is recognized first, and then depending on the recognition result of the denomination, the image of the serial number region is extracted. Accordingly, the counting process of the currency notes may become more effective.

As Applicant understands it, however, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teaches this aspect of invention discussed above, e.g., recognizing the denomination of the currency note first, and then extracting the image of the serial number region of the currency note based on the recognition result. For example, it appears that the validator means of Izawa directly “reads” denomination of the bill from output signals of the validator sensor 16 to automatically decide positions of the symbols. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 9-14 of Izawa. Izawa further teaches that the whole area of the symbols are “read” under the control of the read controller means 20. See, e.g., col. 6, lines 8-20 of Izawa. In contrast, the present invention “recognizes” denomination of the currency note by “scanning” the entire image of the currency note, and “extracts” the image of serial number region from the entire image.

None of the other cited references (i.e., Jones, Conant, Higgins) is believed to teach the above aspect of the invention, e.g., recognizing the denomination of the currency note first, and then extracting the image of the serial number region of the currency note based on the recognition result.

Accordingly, each of claims 1 and 6 as amended is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Izawa, Jones, Conant and Higgins), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Also, Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

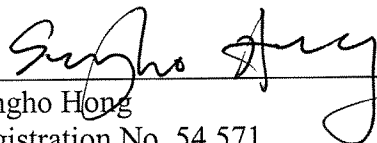
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 4251-4020). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 25, 2008

By:


Sungho Hong
Registration No. 54,571

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 (Telephone)
(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)

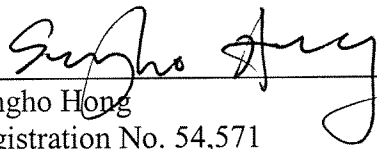
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Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 (Telephone)
(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)